



An Archaeological Evaluation at Hornsea Rise Memorial Home, Bosworth Road, Wellsborough, Nuneaton, Leicestershire, CV13 6PA

NGR: SK 36044 02326

Nathan Flavell



ULAS Report No 2019-111
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Grid Ref: SK 36044 02326

Author: Nathan Flavell

Client: Springbourne Homes

Planning Ref. 17/01050/OUT

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OASIS RECORD

PROJECT DETAILS	Oasis No	universi1-364757		
	Project Name	Hornsea Rise Memorial Home, Bosworth Road, Wellsborough, Nuneaton, Leicestershire		
	Start/end dates	12-08-2019 – 15-08-2019		
	Previous/Future Work	DBA (Pegasus Group 2018)		
	Project Type	Evaluation		
	Site Status	None		
	Current Land Use	Demolished care home		
	Monument Type/Period	Unknown		
	Significant Finds/Period	None		
	Reason for Investigation	NPPF		
	Position in the Planning Process	Planning condition		
	Planning Ref.	17/01050/OUT		
PROJECT LOCATION	County	Leicestershire		
	Site Address/Postcode	Bosworth Road, Wellsborough, Nuneaton, Leicestershire CV13 6PA		
	Study Area	2.5 ha		
	Site Coordinates	SK 36044 02326		
	Height OD	115m aOD		
PROJECT CREATORS	Organisation	ULAS		
	Project Brief Originator	North West Leicestershire District Council		
	Project Design Originator	ULAS		
	Project Manager	Gavin Speed		
	Project Director/Supervisor	Nathan Flavell		
	Sponsor/Funding Body	Springbourne Homes		
PROJECT ARCHIVE		Physical	Digital	Paper
	Recipient	None	LCC Museum service	LCC Museum service
	ID (Acc. No.)	None	X.A54.2019	X.A54.2019
	Contents	None	Photographs	Photo Record, Trench Sheets, Context sheets, Report, Drawings
PROJECT BIBLIOGRAPHY	Type	Grey Literature (unpublished)		
	Description	Developer Report A4 pdf		
	Title	An archaeological field evaluation at Hornsea Rise Memorial Home, Bosworth Road, Wellsborough, Nuneaton, Leicestershire		
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An Archaeological Field Evaluation at Hornsea Rise Memorial Home, Bosworth Road, Wellsborough, Nuneaton, Leicestershire

Nathan Flavell

Summary

This document is a fieldwork report for an archaeological trial trench evaluation, carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) at the former Hornsea Rise memorial Home, Wellsborough, Nuneaton, Leicestershire (NGR: SK 36044 02326) in advance of the construction of a residential development.

A total of twelve trenches were excavated across the site revealing two undated gullies, and a post-medieval boundary.

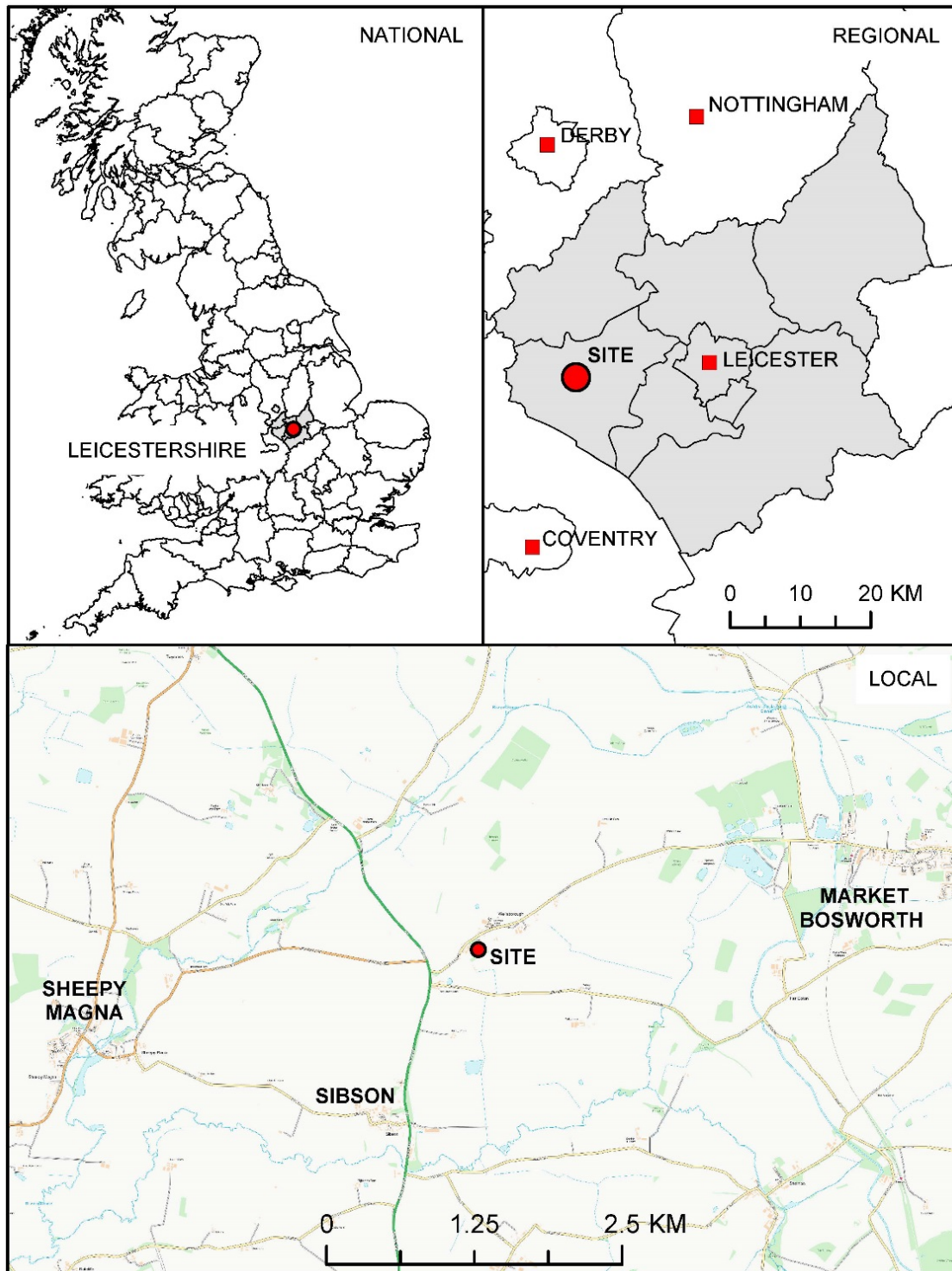
The archive for the site will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums with accession number X.A54.2019.

Introduction

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) were commissioned by Springbourne Homes to carry out an archaeological trial trench evaluation at Hornsea Rise memorial Home, Bosworth Road, Wellsborough, Nuneaton, Leicestershire (NGR: SK 36044 02326; Fig. 1). The work was carried out between 12th – 15th August 2019.

The work was carried out as a condition of archaeological work required by the Planning Authority following advice from the Leicestershire Planning Archaeologist in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, MHCLG 2018) for Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council. Planning permission has been granted for the demolition of the existing care home buildings and erection of 14 dwellings and 12 apartments (17/01050/OUT).

The application area (approximately 2.5 hectares) is that of the former Hornsea Rise Care Home (now demolished) and it is located within the village of Wellsborough. Wellsborough is 2.7 miles from Market Bosworth and 1.3 miles from Sheepy Magna. The site is bounded by agricultural land beyond Bosworth Road to the north, residential development and the Garden of Remembrance associated with the former care home to the east and north-east, a small group of farm buildings and agricultural land to the south, and agricultural land to the west (Fig. 2).



Location and Geology

The site lies at a height of approximately 115m aOD, but slopes slightly towards the southern boundary of the site. The solid geology of the site is mapped as Gunthorpe Member, comprising mudstone formed approximately 237-247 million years ago in the Triassic Period. The

superficial geology of the site is mapped as Glaciofluvial Deposits (Mid Pleistocene) comprising sand and gravel formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period (British Geological Survey of Britain).

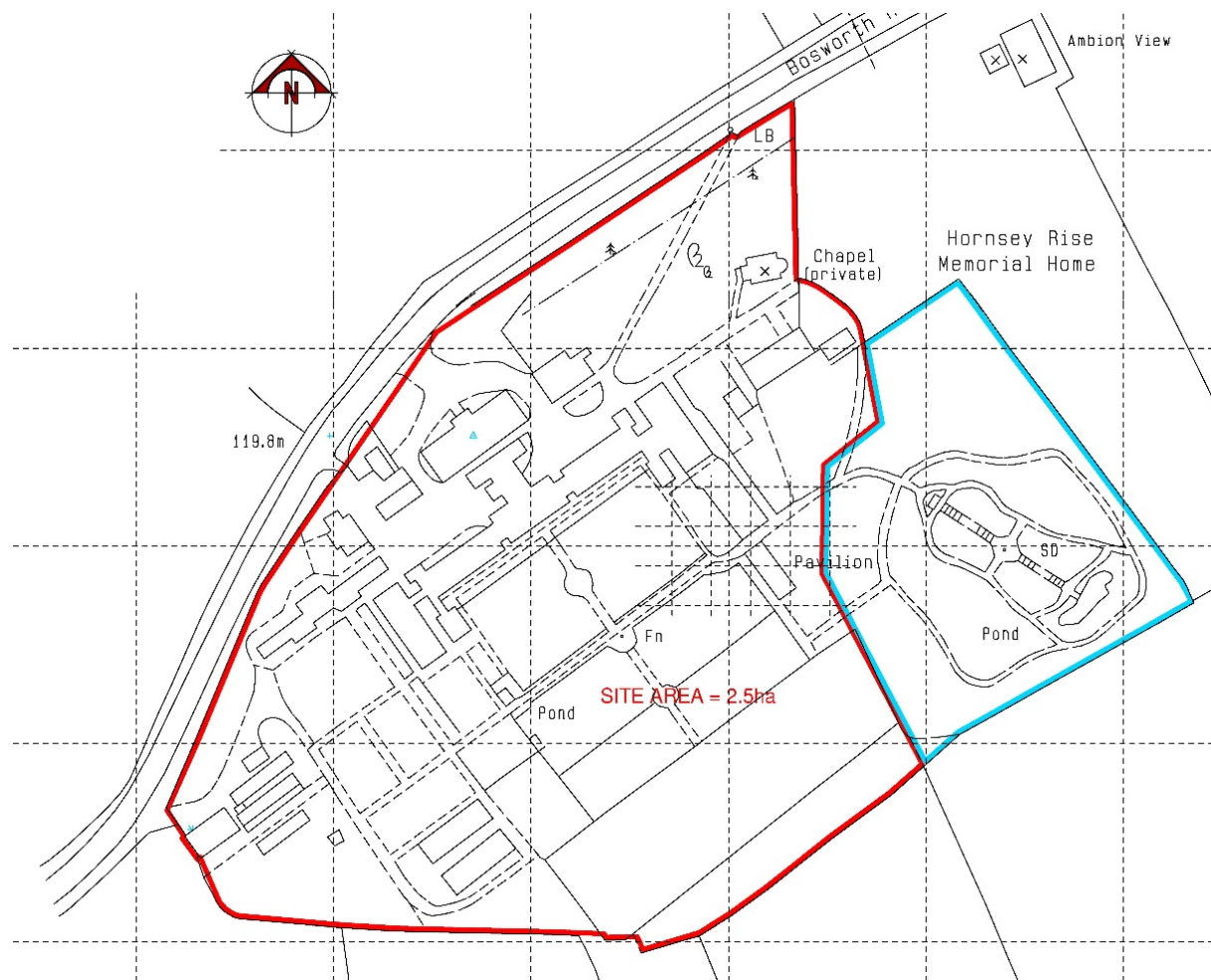


Figure 2: Detailed site location plan (supplied by client)

Historical and Archaeological Background

The site has been identified by the Leicestershire HER as within the western extent of the shrunken medieval settlement of Wellsborough (**MLE 3178**). It was historically located within the parish of Sibson, in the subdivision of Wellsborough Temple Hall and is likely to have formed part of the field system of the settlement of Wellsborough from at least the medieval period. The archaeological and historic background of the site was set out in an archaeological desk based assessment (Pegasus 2018), it is included in summary below:

Prehistoric/Romano-British

There is no evidence within the site and immediate surroundings for prehistoric finds or features resulting in low potential for significant prehistoric archaeological remains within the site. There is little evidence within the study area and no evidence within the site for Romano-British finds or features. In the Leicestershire HER the only Roman period record comprises a group of seven coins recorded c.855m north of the site. Therefore the potential for significant Romano-British archaeological remains within the site is also considered to be low.

Medieval

Wellsborough is not mentioned in the Domesday Book but by 1220 it was a chapelry of Sibson and in the itinerary of 1280 AD, *Whellsburgh, Sibberston* and *Temple* answered collectively as one village. It had been depopulated prior to 1445 when the shrunken medieval village of Wellsborough comprised a small hilltop settlement with activity primarily focused at Manor Farm, over 200m east of the site. This was the former Manor House (**HER MLE 9520**) and where evidence of enclosures and potential building sites is recorded. No evidence has come from within the site or its immediate vicinity to suggest that medieval settlement activity extended into the site, which most likely formed part of the agricultural field system to the settlement.

Post Medieval

The site was a pasture field in the early Ordnance Survey maps but by 1928 the buildings of the NATSOPA Memorial Home were in situ (it was opened in 1921 as a care home for retired printers and memorial to printers who fell in WW1), (Fig. 3). The majority of the remaining site was hard-landscaped in the early 20th century, with terracing utilized to mitigate the slope of site, and a pond, paths and woodland created.

In 1974 the home was taken over by the Pilgrims' Friend Society and catered for the needs of elderly Christians. Further facilities were built on site to meet the needs of the residents, including a chapel, formal gardens and summer pavilion, all of which were well maintained. The facility was closed in 2013, although some sections had been closed for longer.

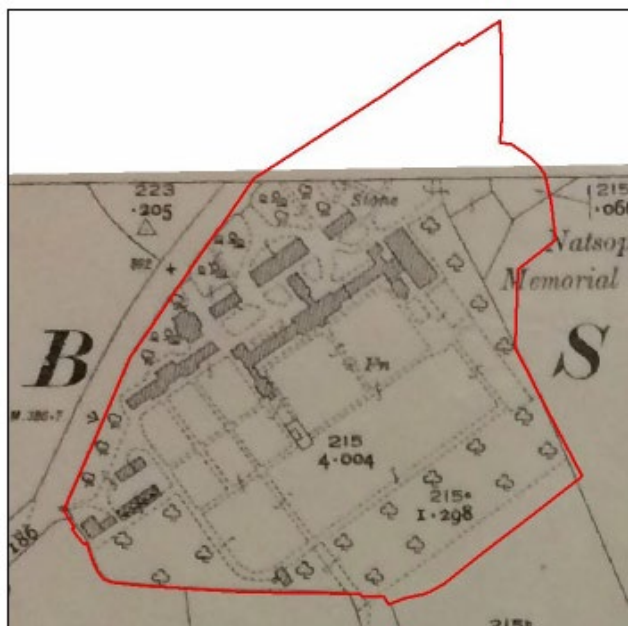


Figure 3: Extract from the Ordnance Survey Map of 1928 (Pegasus 2018, 24)

Archaeological Objectives

The main objectives of the evaluation were:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits on the site.
- To characterise the extent, date range, character, condition and significance of any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
- To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of any archaeological deposits and features encountered.
- To provide sufficient information on the archaeological potential of the site to assess the impact of the proposed development on cultural heritage and to help formulate a mitigation strategy.
- To record any archaeological deposits and produce an archive and report of any results.

Trial trenching is an intrusive form of evaluation that will demonstrate the existence of earth-fast archaeological features that may exist within the area, the results of which will provide information for the local planning authority to identify an appropriate mitigation strategy.

Research Objectives

Research objectives were derived from East Midlands Heritage research agenda (Cooper 2006, Knight *et al.* 2012) and include:

How can we shed further light on the origin and development of dispersed hamlets and farms? [7.2.2]

Can we clarify further the processes of settlement and establish the extent of surviving medieval fabrics? [7.2.4]

Can we shed further light upon the origins and development of the open-field system and its impact upon agricultural practices? [7.7.1]

Can we elucidate further the use of social space in buildings and across the landscape, the manipulation of vistas and the integration of gardens with the wider landscape? [8.2.2]

Methodology

All work followed the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct* (rev. 2014a) in accordance with their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (rev. 2014b). The archaeological work followed the *Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for Archaeological Evaluation* prepared by ULAS and agreed with the Leicestershire County Council Planning Archaeologist (July 2018). The work was monitored by the client and the Leicestershire County Council Planning Archaeologist.

An accession number (X.A54.2019) was obtained prior to commencement of the project and used to identify all records.

A total of 13 30m x 1.6m trenches were proposed targeting areas of buildings, but only 12 trenches were possible (Trench 13 could not be excavated due to a large spoil heap and extreme foliage). The southern end of trench 8 was shortened because after initial excavation a number of active drains and access covers were uncovered. Trench 11 was moved northwest 5 metres because of a TPO. Trench 12 was moved because of an existing large spoil heap (building demolition rubble).

Trenches were measured in using DGPS. The excavation of the trenches was carried out using a JCB 3CX fitted with a 1.6m wide ditching bucket under constant supervision by an experienced archaeologist.

Trenches were excavated to the level of the natural sub-stratum or to archaeological layers, whichever the higher in the sequence. All archaeological work was undertaken as specified within the WSI. The trenches were verbally signed off by the Planning Archaeologist before being backfilled by machine.

Results

Trenches 3 and 6 contained a single gully, while all other trenches were negative for archaeological remains. Some of the extant building remains were uncovered along with associated services. The natural consisted of orange-brown pebbly sand withy areas of manganese mottled red-brown sand to the northeast of the site. Subsoil was orange-brown sandy silt. Topsoil, where encountered was mid-dark brown sandy loam. A redeposited topsoil and demolition layer lay across most of the site.

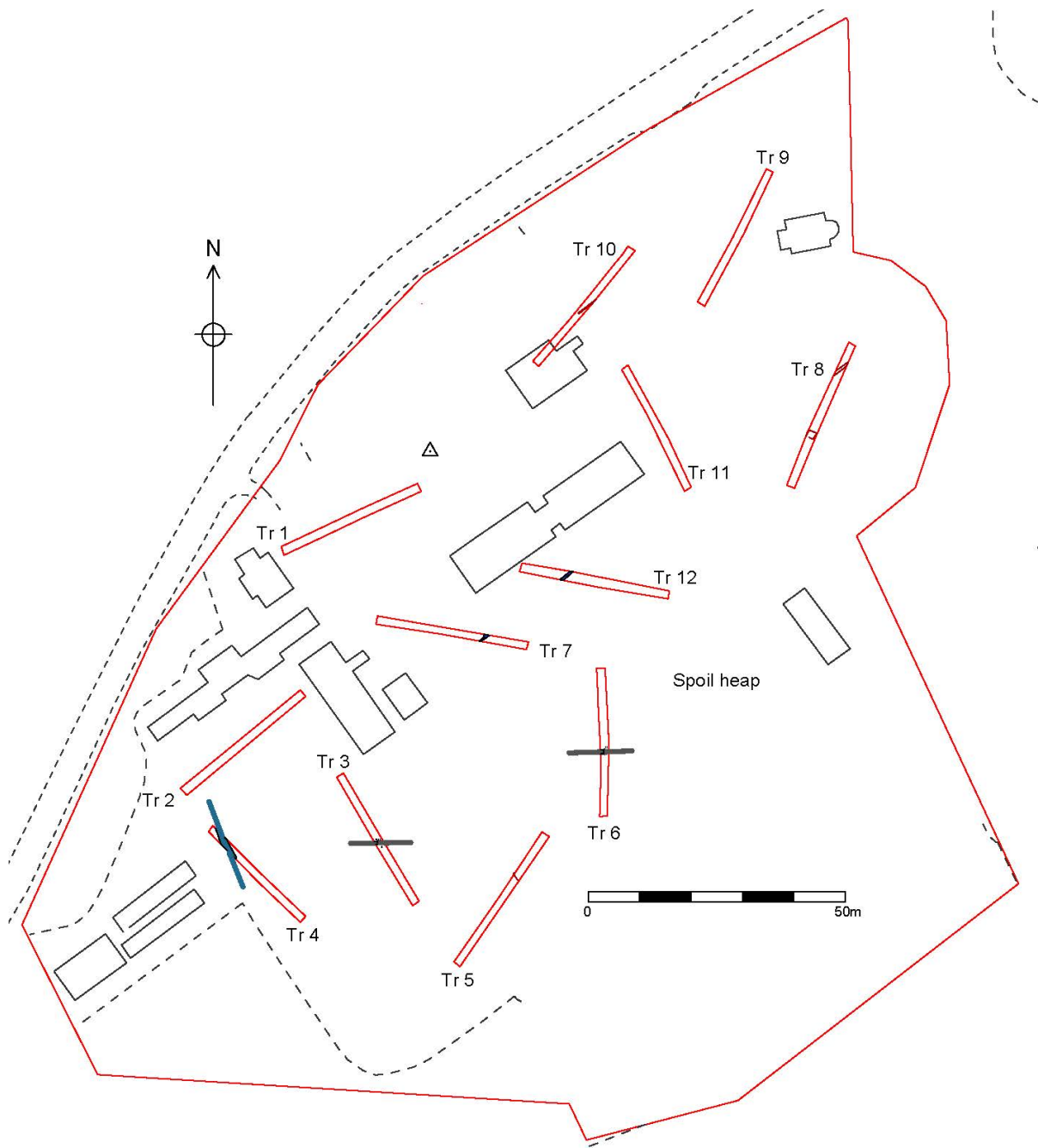


Figure 4: Site plan with archaeology

Trench 1

Trench 1 measured 29.1m x 1.6m, and was aligned north-east to south-west (Fig. 5). The natural substratum consisted of mid orange-brown sand with pebble inclusions at a depth of between 0.67m - 1.06m below ground level. Above this was a thin subsoil of mid orange-brown sandy-silty 0.1m thick at the northeast end of the trench. This was covered by a rubble filled grey-brown sandy silt topsoil, 0.63-1.06m thick. No archaeological finds or deposits were present.

OD Height: 119.33m	(NE) 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	29.1m (SW)
Topsoil Depth	0.88	0.63	0.88	0.67	1.06	0.9	0.8
Subsoil Depth	0.1	0.12	-	-	-	-	-
Depth of Natural	0.98	0.75	1.08	0.67	1.06	0.9	0.8
Base of Trench	1.02	0.9	1.08	0.67	1.06	0.9	0.8



Figure 5: Left: Trench 1, looking southwest. Right: Trench 2, looking northeast. 1m scale.

Trench 2

Trench 2 measured 30.1m x 1.6m, and was aligned north-east to south-west. The natural substratum was the same as trench 1, with bands of red clay at a depth of between 0.32m – 0.79m below ground level. Above this was subsoil, mid orange-brown sandy-silty 0.2-0.49m thick. This was covered by dark brown sandy loam topsoil, 0.3-0.43m thick. No archaeological finds or deposits were present.

OD Height: 118.57m	(SW) 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30.1m (NE)
Topsoil Depth	0.43	0.3	0.35	0.32	0.37	0.3	0.3
Subsoil Depth	-	0.2	0.2	-	0.4	0.38	0.49

Depth of Natural	0.43	0.5	0.55	0.32	0.77	0.68	0.79
Base of Trench	0.58	0.6	0.75	0.59	0.82	0.8	0.89

Trench 3

Trench 3 measured 29.3m x 1.6m, and was aligned north-west to south-east (Fig. 6). The natural substratum was the same as trench 1, at a depth of between 0.47m – 0.65m below ground level. Cut into this was gully [4], aligned east-west with a moderately sloped profile, 0.65m wide, 0.2m deep (Fig. 7). It was filled by (3), red-brown silty sand with occasional pebble inclusions. Subsoil was the same as in trench 2, appeared to seal the feature, 0.12-0.4m thick. This was covered by topsoil, 0.25-0.4m thick. It contained no dating evidence, its appearance would indicate it was of a fairly recent date (i.e. a post-medieval field boundary).

OD Height: 117.19m	(NW) 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	29.3m (SE)
Topsoil Depth	0.4	0.4	0.27	0.32	0.25	0.4	0.25
Subsoil Depth	0.18	0.2	0.2	0.23	0.28	0.12	0.4
Depth of Natural	0.58	0.6	0.47	0.55	0.53	0.52	0.65
Base of Trench	0.58	0.6	0.65	0.59	0.53	0.52	0.65



Figure 6: Trench 3 looking northwest, and gully [4] looking southwest

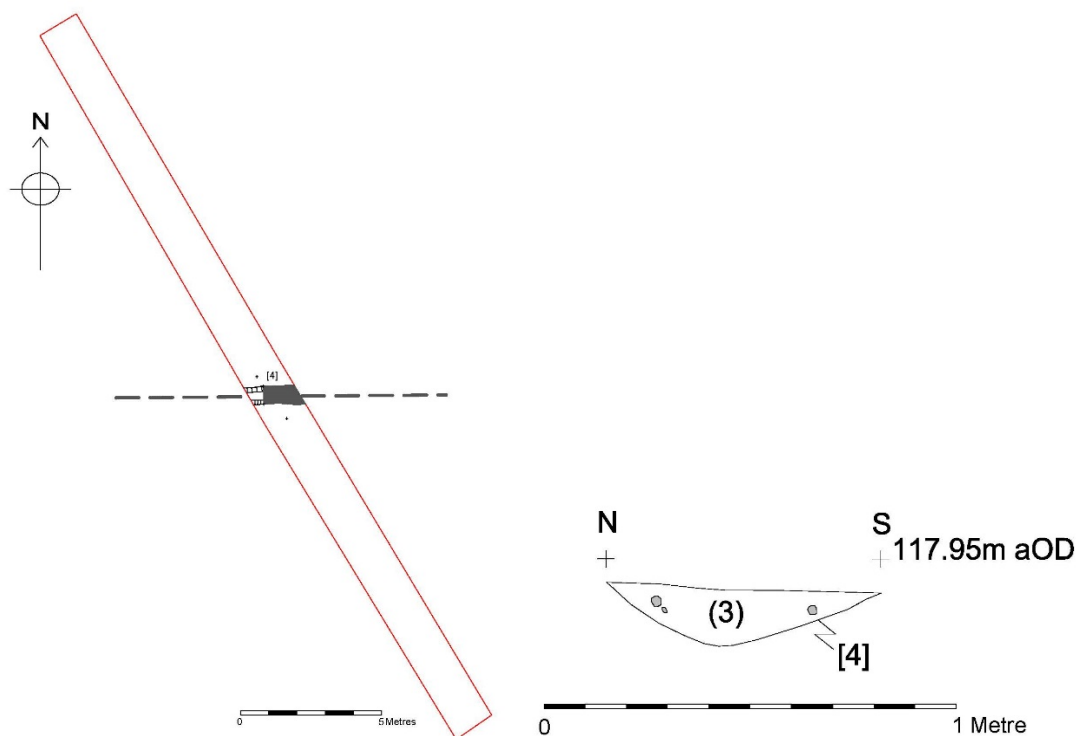


Figure 7: Trench 3 plan, and Gully [4] section.

Trench 4

Trench 4 measured 25m x 1.6m, and was aligned north-west to south-east (Fig. 8). The natural substratum was the same as trench 1, at a depth of between 0.3m – 0.64m below ground level. The subsoil was c. 0.12m thick. There appeared to be cut into this a possible post-medieval field boundary, aligned north-south, approximately 1.3m wide. It may be the continuation of a field boundary noted on the 1886 OS map before hedge lines were removed to make one large field. Covering this was topsoil, 0.3-0.5m thick.

OD Height: 116.85m	(SE) 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m (NW)
Topsoil Depth	0.5	0.4	0.33	0.3	0.46	0.3
Subsoil Depth	0.14	0.12	0.13	-	-	-
Depth of Natural	0.64	0.52	0.46	0.3	0.46	0.3
Base of Trench	0.74	0.62	0.46	0.3	0.46	0.51



Figure 8: Left: Trench 4 looking northwest, Right: Trench 5 looking southwest

Trench 5

Trench 5 measured 30.4m x 1.6m, and was aligned north-east to south-west (Fig. 8). The natural substratum was the same as trench 1, at a depth of between 0.4m – 0.6m below ground level. The subsoil was 0.14-0.2m thick. Topsoil was between 0.25-0.4m thick. No archaeological finds or deposits were present.

OD Height: 115.99m	(SW) 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30.4m (NE)
Topsoil Depth	0.4	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.3	0.25	0.4
Subsoil Depth	0.2	0.15	0.15	0.2	0.14	0.2	-
Depth of Natural	0.6	0.45	0.46	0.5	0.44	0.45	0.4
Base of Trench	0.65	0.58	0.52	0.6	0.57	0.55	0.5

Trench 6

Trench 6 measured 29m x 1.6m, and was aligned north to south (Fig. 9). The natural substratum was the same as trench 1, at a depth of between 0.46m – 0.78m below ground level. Cut into this was gully [2], aligned east-west with a moderately sloped profile, 0.85m wide, 0.2m deep (Fig. 10). It was filled by (1), red-brown silty sand with occasional pebble inclusions (no finds). Subsoil was the same as in trench 2, appeared to seal the feature, 0.15-0.3m thick. This was covered by topsoil, 0.1-0.24m thick. Overlying this was a redeposited mix of topsoil and demolition hardcore, 0.16-0.4m thick. The gully is likely to have been the same as that seen in Trench 3.

OD Height: 117.50m	(S) 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	29m (N)
Redeposited Hardcore Depth	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.16	0.4	0.2	0.3

Topsoil Depth	0.14	0.2	0.15	0.1	0.24	0.1	0.1
Subsoil Depth	0.22	0.15	0.21	0.3	0.15	0.28	0.2
Depth of Natural	0.62	0.55	0.46	0.56	0.78	0.58	0.5
Base of Trench	0.7	0.6	0.89	0.63	0.8	0.68	0.8



Figure 9: Left: Trench 6 looking north, Right: Gully [2] looking west. 1m scales.

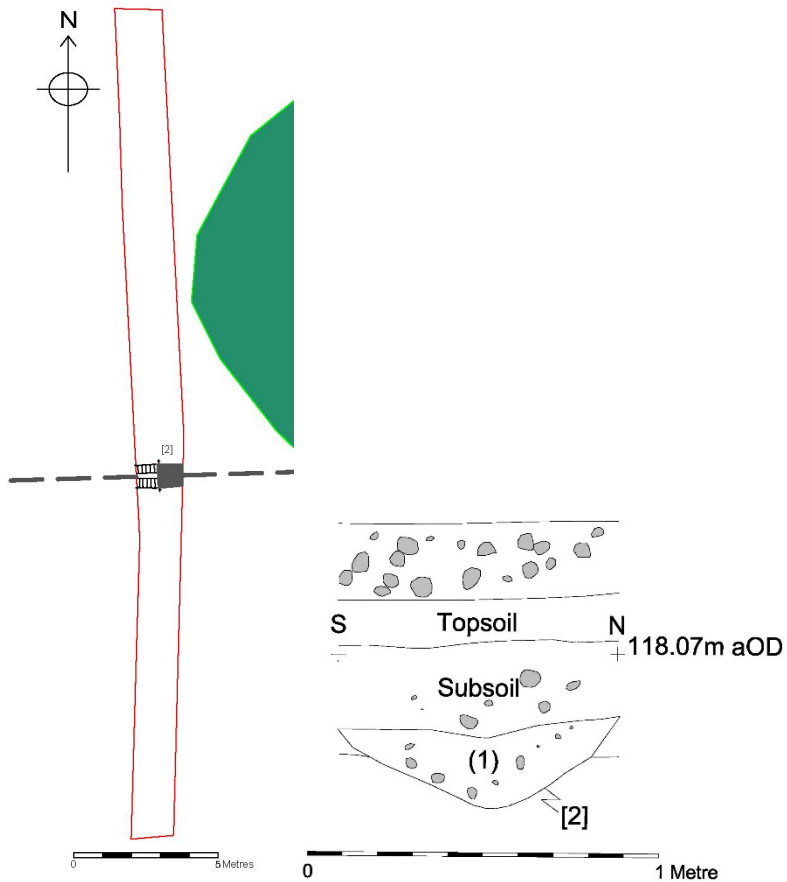


Figure 10: Trench 6 plan, and gully [2] section.

Trench 7

Trench 7 measured 29.8m x 1.6m, and was aligned north-west to south-east (Fig. 11). The natural substratum was the same as trench 1, at a depth of between 0.5m – 0.9m below ground level. No subsoil was evident. Topsoil consisted of a mix of topsoil and demolition, between 0.5-0.9m thick. Partial remains of the care home building was evident. No archaeological finds or deposits were present.

OD Height: 118.85m	(SE) 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	29.8m (NW)
Topsoil Depth	0.7	0.58	0.8	0.5	0.9	0.72	0.64
Subsoil Depth	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Depth of Natural	0.7	0.58	-	0.5	0.9	0.72	0.64
0.674Base of Trench	0.7	0.67	0.8	0.68	0.94	0.72	0.64



Figure 11: Left: Trench 7 looking southeast, Trench 8 looking looking southwest. 1m scale.

Trench 8

Trench 8 measured 30m x 1.6m, and was aligned north-east to south-west (Fig. 11). The natural substratum was a mix of manganese mottled red sand and grey sand, at a depth of between 0.4m – 0.66m below ground level. The subsoil where found was 0.07-0.16m thick. Topsoil was between 0.4-0.73m thick. The trench was split into two halves because of active drains. No archaeological finds or deposits were present.

OD Height: 118.77m	(SW) 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m (NE)
Topsoil Depth	0.5	0.73	0.6	0.65	0.45	0.45	0.4
Subsoil Depth	0.16	-	-	-	0.07	-	-
Depth of Natural	0.66	0.73	0.6	0.65	0.52	0.45	0.4

Base of Trench	0.66	0.73	0.6	0.65	0.52	0.45	0.4
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Trench 9

Trench 9 measured 29.3m x 1.6m, and was aligned north-east to south-west (Fig. 13). The natural substratum was grey-brown manganese mottled pebbly sand, at a depth of between 0.4m – 0.6m below ground level. The subsoil was 0.2-0.3m thick. Topsoil was between 0.2-0.3m thick. No archaeological finds or deposits were present.

OD Height: 119.12m	(NE) 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	29.3m (SW)
Topsoil Depth	0.28	0.2	0.23	0.2	0.23	0.24	0.3
Subsoil Depth	0.2	0.26	0.27	0.2	0.3	0.23	0.3
Depth of Natural	0.48	0.46	0.5	0.4	0.53	0.47	0.6
Base of Trench	0.55	0.56	0.55	0.46	0.53	0.47	0.6



Figure 12: Left: Trench 9 looking southwest, Right: Trench 10 looking northeast. 1m scale.

Trench 10

Trench 10 measured 29.5m x 1.6m, and was aligned north-east to south-west (Figs. 13). The natural substratum was the same as trench 9, at a depth of between 0.25m – 0.42m below ground level. At the northeast end of the trench was a layer of redeposited sand a clay, 0.08-0.15m thick. The subsoil was 0.1-0.18m thick. Topsoil was between 0.1-0.2m thick. No archaeological finds or deposits were present.

OD Height: 118.70m	(SW) 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	29.5m (NE)
Topsoil Depth	0.12	0.2	0.2	0.18	0.16	0.1	0.16
Subsoil Depth	0.13	0.11	0.11	0.13	0.18	0.17	0.1

Redeposited sand and clay	-	-	-	-	-	0.15	0.08
Depth of Natural	0.25	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.34	0.42	0.34
Base of Trench	0.35	0.4	0.38	0.42	0.43	0.5	0.6



Figure 13: Left: Trench 11 looking northeast, Right: Trench 12 looking northwest

Trench 11

Trench 11 measured 27m x 1.6m, and was aligned north-west to south-east (Fig. 14). The natural substratum was the same as trench 9, at a depth of between 0.52m – 0.78m below ground level. The subsoil was 0.14-0.2m thick. At the southeast end of the trench was an area of demolition backfill, 0.6m thick. Topsoil was between 0.1-0.8m thick. No archaeological finds or deposits were present.

OD 118.37m	Height:	(SE) 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	27m (NW)
Topsoil Depth		0.18	0.1	0.14	0.11	-	0.18	0.16
Subsoil/Demolition Depth		-	0.5	0.38	0.53	0.5	0.6	0.6
Demolition backfill depth		0.6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Depth of Natural		-	0.6	0.52	0.64	0.5	0.78	0.76
Base of Trench		0.78	0.6	0.52	0.64	0.5	0.85	0.9

Trench 12

Trench 12 measured 29m x 1.6m, and was aligned north-west to south-east (Fig. 14). The natural substratum was the same as trench 1, at a depth of between 0.57m – 0.74m below ground level. Demolition was evident 20m along the trench, 0.5m thick above the remains of a brick wall or pathway, most likely the same as in trench 7. The subsoil was 0.28-0.48m thick. Topsoil was between 0.2-0.36m thick. No archaeological finds or deposits were present.

OD 118.71m	Height: (SE) 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	29m (NW)
Topsoil/Demolition Depth	0.2	0.36	0.32	0.34	-	0.23	0.23
Subsoil Depth	0.37	0.38	0.3	0.28	-	0.48	0.4
Demolition Depth	-	-	-	-	0.5	-	-
Depth of Natural	0.57	0.74	0.62	0.62	-	0.71	0.63
Base of Trench	0.6	0.74	0.62	0.62	0.5	0.71	0.63

Discussion

Despite the obvious landscaping in the early 20th Century for the care home, some archaeological features were uncovered during the archaeological evaluation. Gullies [2] and [4] would appear to be parallel with each other and could represent medieval or post-medieval (although undated) land division. The ditch in Trench 4 is most likely a post-medieval field boundary that was removed to make a larger field plot some time before the 1886 OS map, as fields to the south are rectangular strips, these may have continued up to Bosworth Road. The results from the trenching therefore indicate that the site lay in agricultural fields, well outside of the Wellsborough medieval village core to the north-east. There was no evidence for earlier archaeological activity.

Conclusion

The archaeological investigation has successfully addressed the aims and objectives and the highest confidence can be placed in the data recovered and this report. There were few physical constraints, leading to a satisfactory application of the methodological approach. The results show an absence of any significant archaeological activity in this area. The excavation has confirmed that the archaeological evidence is of little significance, and therefore no further archaeological work is recommended for this site.

Archive and publication

The archive for this project will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums with accession number X.A54.2019 and consists of the following:

- 1 Unbound copy of this report (ULAS Report No. 2019-111)
- 12 Trench recording sheets
- 1 Context index sheet
- 4 Context sheets
- 1 Drawing index
- 1 Drawing record sheet
- 1 Permatrace drawing sheet
- 1 Photo Record sheet

2 Contact sheets of digital photographs

1 CD containing a copy of this report and the digital photographs

Since 2004 ULAS has reported the results of all archaeological work through the *Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations* (OASIS) database held by the Archaeological Data Service at the University of York.

A summary of the work will also be submitted for publication in a suitable regional archaeological journal in due course.

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